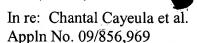


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Amendments To The Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) A composition which regulates method for regulating the inflammatory response of enterocytes, said method comprising contacting said enterocytes with a the composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of nitric oxide (NO) by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with proinflammatory cytokines and bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPS).
- 2. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is an a Lactobacillus casei (L. casei) strain.
- 4. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is the *L. casei* strain CNCM I-1518.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a food supplement.
- 6. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.
- 7. (Withdrawn) Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties which modulate non-specific immunity, which comprises selecting lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria LPS.



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- ✓ 8. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, which also comprises a step of selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.
- 9. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, wherein said strains are screened using cultures of lactic acid bacteria chosen from the group consisting of lactobacilli, lactococci, streptococci and bifidobacteria.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of whole bacteria which may or may not be living.
- 11. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of a bacterial lysate.
- 12. (Currently Amended) A composition method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of bacterial fractions.

13-20 (Cancelled)